

Appl. No. 09/926,763
Amdt. dated December 10, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2004 1, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this application, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-16, 18-26, 32-33, and 39-45 are pending. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-16, 18-26, and 39-45, but has found claims 32-33 as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this finding.

In this response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 32 and 33 (which themselves have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer). A similar amendment is made to independent claim 39 so that this claim, applicant submits, should now also be found allowable. Applicant has also amended claim 39 to correct the indefiniteness objection by the Examiner.

Finally, applicant reintroduces into this case the withdrawn claims 13 and 26 that the Examiner held to be directed to the non-elected Subgroups 7-10. As these dependent claims contain all the limitations of an allowable generic claim (since they are ultimately dependent on that claim), Applicant submits that they are entitled to reconsideration by the Examiner and should now be found allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that the aforementioned changes do not add new matter, and that the amended claims are supported by the previously filed specification.

Applicant submits that in view of all of the above, the present application now complies with the requirements of the Patent Act. Timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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